



## **MMS Alaska OCS Region**

# **News Release**

**For Immediate Release-  
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### **MMS Approves McCovey Exploration Plan**

The U.S. Minerals Management Service approved on February 28, 2002 Alberta Energy's plans to explore the McCovey Prospect in the Beaufort Sea. Alberta Energy plans to drill from a fixed drilling platform, the SDC, during the 2002/2003-winter season.

The McCovey Unit includes three Federal and four State of Alaska leases located in the central Beaufort Sea about five miles northeast of Reindeer Island and 12 miles east of the Northstar Field. MMS and the State approved the Unit in August 2000. Phillips Alaska Inc. and Chevron are partners in the Unit.

The McCovey Exploration Plan must receive Coastal Zone Consistency Certification concurrence from the State of Alaska before MMS can approve an Application for Permit to Drill. An Environmental Assessment for the McCovey Project was prepared by MMS and is available from the Minerals Management Service, 949 East 36th Avenue, Room 308, Anchorage, AK 99508-4363, or calling the MMS at 907-271-6070 or toll-free 1-800-764-2627.

MMS is the federal agency in the U.S. Department of the Interior that manages the nation's oil, natural gas and other mineral resources on the outer continental shelf in federal offshore waters. The agency also collects, accounts for and disburses mineral revenues from federal and Indian leases. These revenues totaled nearly \$10 billion in 2001 and more than \$120 billion since the agency was created in 1982. Annually, nearly \$1 billion from those revenues go into the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the acquisition and development of state and federal park and recreation lands.

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